



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 November 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 23 (a)

Groups of countries in special situations: Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 23 (see A/65/439, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 21st and 31st meetings, on 28 October and 24 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.21 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.5 and A/C.2/65/L.55

2. At the 21st meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/65/L.5), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

"Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/65/439 and Add.1 and 2.

"Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005,

"Recalling its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

"Recalling also its resolution 64/213 of 21 December 2009 on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it decided to convene the Conference in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days,

"Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 27 September 2010,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 of 23 July 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which the Council, inter alia, expressed concern that the economic and social progress made so far by the least developed countries towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened by the continuing severe impact of multiple global crises, such as the economic and financial crises, concerns regarding food security, the energy crisis and the adverse impacts of climate change, and resolved to take appropriate policy measures at all levels, both in the short and long-term and actions in support of the policies and measures of the least developed countries to enable them to overcome the negative impacts created by those crises,

"Recalling also the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

"Recalling further the outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, in which the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the significant constraints and structural impediments faced by the least developed countries and expressed grave concern that they are lagging behind in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that context, inter alia, looked forward to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which would further invigorate the international partnership to address the special needs of these countries,

"Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

"1. Welcomes the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

"2. Decides to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 30 May to 3 June 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, at the highest possible level in line with the mandate specified by the General

Assembly in its resolution 63/227 in view of the critical importance of the Conference;

"3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and notes the outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional meeting, held in Dhaka, from 18 to 20 January 2010, and the outcome of the Africa regional meeting held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 March 2010;

"4. *Looks forward* to the ministerial preparatory meeting for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in early 2011, and to its outcome for the success of the Conference in Istanbul;

"5. *Takes note* of the ministerial meeting on enhancing the mobilization of financial resources for the development of the least developed countries, which was held in Lisbon, on 2 and 3 October 2010;

"6. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"7. *Also welcomes* the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"8. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

"9. *Urges* all development partners and other relevant stakeholders, including the Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process, including through organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, in line with its previous resolutions in this regard;

"10. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries and, while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner in order to support the substantive preparations for the Conference as well as to support the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to ensure the mobilization of sufficient resources to facilitate the preparatory process and the Conference, including the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available the necessary resources to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the meetings of the preparatory committee and the Conference itself;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance advocacy and public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

"14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices, as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements, resource gaps and appropriate actions for achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session an item entitled 'Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/65/L.55), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.5.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55.

6. Also at the 31st meeting, the Rapporteur made a statement (see A/C.2/65/SR.31).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Turkey, in her capacity as facilitator of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55, orally corrected the English text of the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representative of France orally corrected the French text of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55 (see A/C.2/65/SR.31).

9. At its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55, as orally corrected (see para. 11).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.5 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,² adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,³

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005,⁴

Recalling its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

Recalling also its resolution 64/213 of 21 December 2009 on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it decided to convene the Conference in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 of 23 July 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 27 September 2010,

Recalling the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁵ as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 59/209 of 20 December 2004, in which it stressed and reiterated the importance, for countries graduating from least developed country status, of a smooth transition to avoid disruption in development progress,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁶ in which the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the significant constraints and structural impediments faced by the least developed countries in

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² Ibid., chap. II.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ A/61/117, annex I.

⁶ See resolution 65/1.

their development efforts and expressed grave concern that they are lagging behind in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that context, inter alia, looked forward to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which would further invigorate the international partnership to address the special needs of these countries,

Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁷

2. *Decides* to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, at the highest possible level, in line with the mandate specified by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227, in view of the critical importance of the Conference;

3. *Also decides* to reschedule the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and to hold it in New York from 4 to 8 April 2011, for five working days;

4. *Welcomes* the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Conference, and notes the outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting, held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010, and the outcome of the Africa regional preparatory meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 March 2010;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Ministerial Meeting on "enhancing the mobilization of financial resources for the development of the least developed countries", which was held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 October 2010;

6. *Looks forward* to the Ministerial Meeting on "Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South cooperation for the development of the least developed countries" to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi early in 2011;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

8. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

⁷ A/65/80-E/2010/77.

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Conference and during its preparatory process, and in this regard stresses the need for their active participation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, a day of informal interactive hearings with civil society actors in due time before the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, in consultation with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the Civil Society Steering Committee and the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Conference to preside jointly over the informal interactive hearings, and requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the Conference;

13. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to consult with the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the Civil Society Steering Committee, the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Member States, in particular the least developed countries, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that may participate in the informal interactive hearings with civil society, the meetings of the Civil Society Forum of the Conference and the Conference itself;

14. *Invites* all development partners and other relevant stakeholders, including the Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations within their respective mandates, parliaments, civil society and non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process, including through organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference, in line with its previous resolutions in this regard;

15. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the effective participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself;

16. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries and, while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner in order to support the substantive preparations for the Conference as well as to support the participation of representatives of each least developed country in the preparatory process, and to defray the cost of participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing

Countries and Small Island Developing States to intensify mobilization efforts to ensure sufficient extrabudgetary funding from all possible sources for the preparatory process and the Conference itself, and to provide information on the status of the Trust Fund;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance advocacy and public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 to the Conference, identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the national transition strategies prepared by Governments of graduating countries and the support measures provided by development and trading partners for the States that have graduated or are graduating from least developed country status, in line with General Assembly resolution 59/209, including on the possible need and likely ways to reinforce the smooth transition;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session an item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".